

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 21, 2024

Persevere



Life issues can often feel like a relentless beat down. So much so that getting past our emotions can seem like a mountain to climb. It may seem like a daunting task to overcome our emotions and to find steps that lead to consistent results. We are constantly striving to pray, to genuinely worship the Lord, to have a desire to obey Him, to have a sense of intimacy with God, and to read the scriptures feeling uplifted. What's truly remarkable is that even great men of God have experienced emotional turmoil that has impacted their relationship with God, making their struggles relatable to ours.

Elijah became overwhelmed by the constant attacks of Jezebel towards him, and her vicious attacks on the prophets of God. Based on Elijah's response to God, it seemed from his vantage point that God was not doing enough to stop Jezebel while he was faithfully serving God. "And he said, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the sons of Israel have forsaken Thy covenant, torn down Thine altars and killed Thy prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they seek my life, to take it away'" (1 Kings 19:10-11; NASB). Elijah had evaluated all that was taking place before him. Even though Elijah was well-versed in scripture, he chose to be guided by his understanding of the circumstances and his fears (1 Kings 19:1-8). Interestingly, Obadiah, a man of God, trusted God, and even though he worked in the presence of this evil woman, Jezebel, he still served God faithfully (1 Kings 18:1-16). Our emotions can powerfully control our minds and soon become our God, even for a revered man of God.

Christ became very emotional in the Garden of Gethsemane, but He did two things we can learn from: He never stopped praying, and no matter how He felt, He remained committed to doing His Father's will (Matthew 26:36-46). Emotions are extremely powerful, especially when we are scarred by our troubles. This is why the scriptures direct us to pray when anxious (Philippians 4:4-7), guide us to remain very committed to set our minds on what God is doing, not on all the bad things taking place around us (Philippians 4:8-9; James 1:17; 3:13-15; Proverbs 3:5-6), deny ourselves (Luke 14:26-29) and be committed to bear the cross we may need to carry; Christ promises us that His load is easier and His burden is lighter (Matthew 11:25-33). Christ did not say there is no cross to bear; there is a cross, but with the help of the Holy Spirit in us, the strength He provides us, as we mature through our trials (James 1:2-4), He blesses us so that we can do all things (Philippians 4:13).

God forgave Elijah but chose to pass the torch to Elisha (1 Kings 19:15-21). We must remain focused so that the Word of God guides us even when there is emotional turmoil in our lives (Hebrews 11-12:1-3).

UPCOMING Events

CONTEXT MATTERS
Food - Fellowship - Discussions
April 27th at 6PM
Register Online at: <https://bit.ly/LWFCContextMatters>

CONTEXT MATTERS
Have you heard Bible verses used and thought what does it mean for me, or should I use this scripture in my current circumstance? Join us Saturday, April 27th at 6 p.m. in the Legacy Sanctuary for our Fellowship event, Context Matters. We will have food, entertainment, games, and discussions centered around the Word of God and using it in its proper context. Register on the events page of the website and for more information, contact Keron Brown or Rashaud Hudson.

Bible Study
The Book of Revelation
EVERY TUESDAY AT 12 PM & 7 PM
STARTING BACK TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE CHURCH AT (281) 260-7402

REVELATION BIBLE STUDY— EVERY TUESDAY
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m.
Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>
See you there to continue our deep dive into the Book of Revelation. For more information call the church at (281) 260-7402.

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER
GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS
Living Word Family, every weekend in April we have a tremendous opportunity for you to volunteer with Acts 2 Houston for Good Neighbor Days. Good Neighbor Days will serve several communities around Houston every weekend in April. Sign up on the events page of the website or visit The Good Neighbor Days website below
www.goodneighboradays.org/houston

PURCHASE YOUR FAMILY REUNION T-SHIRTS
EVENT ON: SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024
DEADLINE TO PURCHASE: MAY 22, 2024 @ 8 PM
PURCHASE AT: <https://bit.ly/3xwSnuu>

FAMILY REUNION T-SHIRTS
Living Word Family, please purchase your Family Reunion T-Shirt for our Family Reunion Fellowship happening on Sunday, June 30th after our ONE SERVICE at 9:30 a.m. Purchase now at <https://bit.ly/3xwSnuu>
For more information contact Rashaud Hudson or Keron Brown.

SUMMER CAMP
REGISTER AT <http://www.lwcaandabc.com/summercamp> OR CALL (281) 260-7402

LWCA/ABC SUMMER CAMP
Living Word Christian Academy and ABC Word Academy have a Christian-based, fun-filled summer camp available for ages 5—12. The cost is \$90 per week, and the camp is open from 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The campers will have a dynamic summer with robotics, arts & crafts, cooking classes, karate, Christian character building and much more! Register on the events page of the website or call the church (281) 260-7402



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Hope!"
Psalm 42:5-8

Click "Sermon Notes" on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.
Infants—6th grade

LEGACY
EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW
youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY @ 7:30 PM

Hope! Psalm 42:5-8

A. A Cry for Help (v. 5):

1. David asks himself why he seems forever distressed as if his life will remain low and oppressed.
2. David's spirit was very distressed, and he could not figure out why (Ps. 11:12; 55:17-18).
3. Psalm 119 explains how David viewed God's Word. David's experiences of the faithfulness of God's Word led him to expect God to do what He says He will do, so he commands his innermost feelings to move from this despair, put faith in God's Word, and expect God to fulfill His promises.
4. David does not wait to feel good again; he willfully decides to endlessly publicly declare the nature and works of the Lord God.
5. In our despair, we must not bring God down to where we are. We must commit to continuous proclaiming who He is, all that He has done for us, and placing our hope in all we expect Him to do for us.
6. *"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So my soul pants for You, O God."* (Psalm 42:1; NASU) David passionately desired to be in God's presence. This kept his hope alive, and his spirit revived (Psalm 23:6; 27:4; 122:1).

B. Deep Waters (vs. 6-7):

1. Even though God is mighty, powerful, and sovereign over all the earth, David still views God as having a very personal relationship with him.
2. Even though God is everywhere, He is fully willing to be in every part of our lives. He pours Himself completely into us (Titus 3:4-8) so that our bodies become His dwelling place (1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19) so that we receive all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3-4) for the purpose of being "filled up to all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:15-21). This is all done so that we can all be sons of God (Romans 8:12-17; take on His character and characteristics; Galatians 2:20). Be cause of this, we can everyday live in His presence (Ephesians 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12) surrounded by angels (Hebrews 1:14) who encamp around us (Psalm 34:7-10).
3. Deep within David's spirit, he feels distressed, as if brought very low by a powerful oppressor, leaving him feeling powerless. He needs hope because his life is on the edge of plunging into depression. This is why David cries out, 'My God.'

C. Out of the Valley (v. 8):

1. David decides he cannot wait for his feelings to rescue him. Because of God's superiority, he must continuously make an inner commitment to submit his will to the Lord as his supreme leader. He must view God's Word as his marching orders.
2. David purposefully switches from God to Lord because he knows the Lord does not forsake his covenantal relationship with His people, so by denying himself, viewing the Lord's Word as his marching orders (putting his faith in the Lord), he will experience what is already in place to bless him.
3. God's mercy and steadfast love will be faithfully executed once David obeys the Lord's commands. God's love is steadfast because He always maintains His promises to those who choose to keep His Word (John 15:7-10). Even in the dark times of our lives ('with me in the night'), God will steadfastly execute His favor upon us.
4. The most difficult experiences we may encounter should heighten our prayer life and deepen our commitment to depend on the Lord's lovingkindness to sustain us.
5. Our perspective of who God really is should stimulate our faith in the darkest times of our lives, which in turn moves us to pray and trust God's steadfast commitment to sustain us.

I DECLARE AND DECREE IN THE NAME OF JESUS! FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU SAYS THE LORD!

CONTEXT MATTERS

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

Food - Fellowship - Discussions

Join us as we deep dive into the Word of God and the importance of using scripture in its proper context

April 27th at 6PM

Register Online at:
<https://bit.ly/LWFCCContextMatters>

For more information contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org or Rashaud Hudson at Rashaud.Hudson@lwfellowshipchurch.org

VOLUNTEER AT THE REACH

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH DATA ENTRY FOR THE FOOD BANK

- ✔ VIRTUAL OR IN PERSON TRAINING AVAILABLE
- ✔ VOLUNTEER AROUND YOUR SCHEDULE
- ✔ ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT PASTOR BOUTTE AT ALLEN.BOUTTE@HOTMAIL.COM OR CLARISSA HENDERSON AT CLARISSALHENDERSON@GMAIL.COM

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Mignette Dorsey & family, Bevelyn Lane & family. Eric White & family, Hermon Selassie & family, Donnie Emmerson & family, and Katarina House & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Beverly Austin, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Joann Hayes, Carolyn Hadnot, Clarence Coleman, Walter Banks and Angeliqye Hudson.

